

REMARKS

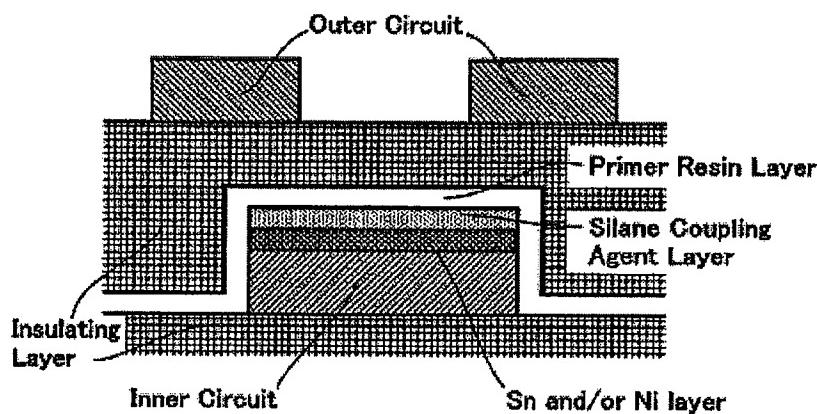
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 18 and 20-40 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 26-39. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 18, 26-31, and 40. The present Amendment does not introduce any new matter and, thus, its entry is respectfully requested.

The Examiner did not find the traversal of the restriction requirement filed on January 29, 2008, persuasive, stating that the method claims were not commensurate in scope with the product claims, unless the method claims were amended to incorporate the tin, nickel, or an alloy of the metals layer and the silane coupling agent layer. Accordingly, claims 26 - 31 have been amended to include a step of plating the surface of the inner layer circuit with tin, nickel, or an alloy of these metals, and specifying that the primer resin is placed against the plated surface. Claims 32 and 33 depend from claims 30 and 31, which both include the plating step. Claims 34 - 39 describe forming the resin formulation, and not the inner layer circuit, and therefore have not been amended with steps for plating the inner layer circuit surface. Applicants request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, at least as to claims 26 - 33.

With regard to the rejections of claims 18 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 18 has been amended to include “a surface of the inner layer circuit facing the primer resin layer,” in order to provide a proper antecedent basis for “the surface of said inner layer...” Support for the inner layer circuit having a surface layer is located on page 3, line 19 of the specification. Claim 40 has been amended to specify that the inner layer circuit surface facing the primer resin layer is the surface with the roughness of 2 μm .

Regarding the Examiner's interpretation of the present invention in item 5 of the Office Action, Applicants wish to clarify that the silane coupling agent is found in claim 20, and not claim 18. Otherwise, the order of the elements of the structure is correct as stated by the Examiner, and as depicted in the drawing below:

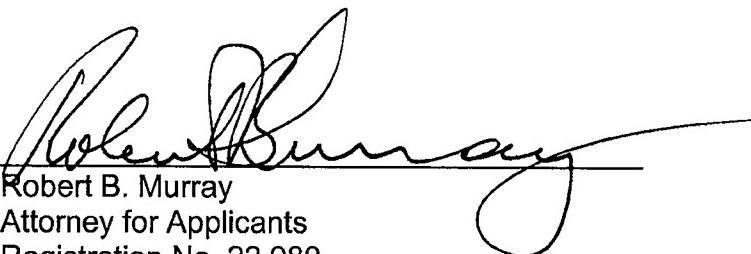


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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action rejections. Early and favorable action is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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